(a) whether the country has re-started its dialogue with Iran on the $8 billion Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipe line project during the visit of Secretary of Iran's National Security Advisor also;

(b) whether the country has reiterated its stand "cost-wise" by asking Iran to put the clause "Supply or Pay" in the Indo-Iran agreement as well as to ensure New Delhi's fears for proper safety of pipe line through Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the time period that Iran would take to sell the required gas to India and Pakistan as per IPI gas pipe line project agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Government of India has been discussing with the Government of Iran the Iran-Pakistan-India Gas (IPI) Pipeline project since 2005 and also did so during the visit of the Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council to New Delhi on June 12, 2009.

(b) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline project. Various issues, *viz*., pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, assured supplies and security of the pipeline, transportation tariff, transit fee for passage of natural gas through Pakistan etc., are involved in the discussions between the participating countries. Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interest and to avoid problems in the future for the successful operation of the pipeline.

(c) Work on the Project can commence only after satisfactory resolution of issues under discussion amongst the participating countries. As such, completion schedule of the Project cannot be laid down at this stage.

Relations with Canada

2163. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral, multilateral or international arrangements for improving our relations with Canada; and

(b) the more steps that are envisaged to further strengthen the ties with that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) India and Canada have several bilateral mechanisms for dialogue such as Foreign Office Consultations, Strategic Dialogue, Joint Working Group on counter-terrorism, Trade Policy Consultations, Joint Committee on Science and Technology, Environment Forum, and Working Group on issues related to agriculture. Both countries have signed Agreements or Memorandum of Understanding in areas such as agriculture, science and technology, avoidance of double taxation, environment, air-services, extradition, and mutual legal assistance.

(b) Efforts are being made to ensure that both countries fully realise the potential and opportunities for bilateral cooperation, based on their commonalities and complementaries.

Problems of Indian brides

2164. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation of Law Commission to tackle the problem of abuse of Indian brides by NRI husbands merits urgent implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cases registered, State-wise;

(d) the action taken against guilty persons so far; and

(e) the compensation paid to the victims so far in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) These recommendations are under examination of the Ministry of Law and Justice. Main recommendations with regard to marriage of Indian brides with NRI husbands are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The number of such complaints received in the Ministry is given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See* below). Action on guilty persons can be taken only based on court orders in each case.

(e) There is no scheme to pay compensation to the victims of fraudulent NRI marriages.

Statement-I

Details of complaints received

A. Registration of marriages must be made compulsory;

B. Dissolution of marriage on the ground of irretrievable breakdown of marriage be introduced in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954;

C. Where one of the spouses is an NRI, parallel additions must be made in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 to provide for provisions for maintenance and alimony of spouses, child custody and child support and as also settlement of matrimonial property;

D. In the matter of succession, transfer of property, repartition of NRI funds etc., the respective State governments must simplify and streamline procedures;

E. The Commission has already recommended in its 218th Report as to the need to accede to the Hague Convention on the Civil aspects of International Child Abduction;

F. Inter-country Child Adoption Procedures must be simplified and a single uniform legislation must be provided for in the matter of adoption of Indian children by NRIs India has also ratified